

## **GRADE RECONFIGURATION STATUS**

### **Grade Reconfiguration Background**

The School Committee voted a new grade reconfiguration in March 2003 after much public processing. The reconfiguration decision was a result of growing enrollment and the expected re-opening of the former high school as the Oak Middle School.

### **Oak Middle School Renovation Project**

The renovation of the former high school into a middle school is a \$22M project. The renovation includes all new utility systems, (electrical, heating/ventilation, plumbing), reconfiguration of the administrative and food service areas, new flooring, painting, and more. The athletic fields are also being excavated, re-graded, and re-installed with a new watering/irrigation system. The project is on budget but most think it is well behind schedule.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **1. When did the project begin and why is it delayed?**

*Demolition work began on the school in October 2002. By the spring of 2003 some negative signals began to emerge from the project such as several sub-contractors walking off the job due to difficulties with the general contractor. In the summer 2003 the Building Committee had a heightened awareness that the project was behind schedule due to the lower-than-expected invoice amounts. In September 2003, the Building Committee scheduled a formal meeting with the company president and their bonding company.*

*The original date of substantial completion was agreed to be April 1, 2004. A six-week extension was granted because of damage caused by a fire in the building. While the general contractor maintains they will meet that deadline, the prevailing consensus from the architect, project management company, and building committee is that the project could be delayed until the fall (October/November) 2004.*

#### **2. Who is the general contractor and how is the town managing the project?**

*Standen Contracting Company of North Dartmouth, Massachusetts was awarded the project as a result of the competitive bidding process specified by Massachusetts General Laws. The town hired Construction Technologies Management (CTM) to oversee the project on a day-to-day basis and ensure contract compliance to the construction documents. The Building Committee (9 person team) has the responsibility and authority to oversee the project on the town's behalf.*

*The members of the Building Committee are:*

*Anthony Bent, Superintendent of Schools*

*Richard Carney, Former Town Manager*

*Robert Cox, Superintendent of Public Buildings*

*Moe DePalo, Board of Selectmen*

*Henry Fitzgerald, Vice President Engineering & Facility Development, Genzyme Corp.*

*Jack Masiello, President, Masiello Construction Company*

*Sandy McManus, Nurse, VNACare Network*

*Daniel Morgado, Town Manager*

*Pasquale Sacco, Executive Director, Operations & Engineering, Transkaryotic Therapies Inc.*

### **3. What will happen if it is not completed on time?**

*If the School Department is informed that the Oak Middle School will not be ready for school in September 2004, then the School Committee will vote for one of the contingency plans detailed in the tables below.*

### **4. Can the Building Committee exert pressure on the contractor to get the work completed on time?**

*Despite factual data presented to the contractor about the lack of progress, Standen Contracting maintains they will meet the May 15, 2004 deadline. A myriad of public construction laws regulate what can and cannot be done. The Building Committee has taken several steps within their authority to influence Standen. Standen's bonding company has been notified of the lack of progress, legal counsel has been sought, and payment verifications from sub-contractors have been verified prior to the Town paying Standen Contracting for completed work*

*Ultimately, it is up to Standen Contracting to deliver the project on time. The contract does stipulate penalties for failure to deliver by the agreed upon date.*

### **5. When will the community know what plan will be in place for next school year (September 2004)?**

*The month of March 2004 has been established as a "decision-making period" with regard to the configuration for next year and which option will be implemented. This will allow time for the administration to plan for the impact of the changes and communicate plans to staff, parents, and students.*

## Grade Reconfiguration Contingencies

### A. Open on Time

Grade	Location(s)	Notes
Preschool	Parker Road/High School	
Kindergarten	Beal/Beal West	
Grades 1-4	Beal, Paton, Coolidge, Floral, Spring (no redistricting)	Some students from Floral district remain at Beal School for grade 1
Grades 5-6	Sherwood Middle School	
Grades 7-8	Oak Middle School	
Grades 9-12	High School	

### B. Partial Occupancy

Grade	Location(s)	Notes
Preschool	Parker Road/High School	
Kindergarten	Beal/Beal West	
Grades 1-4	Beal, Paton, Coolidge, Floral, Spring (no redistricting)	Some students from Floral district remain at Beal School for grade 1
Grades 5-6	Sherwood Middle School	
Grades 7-8	Oak Middle School	Grade 7 moves in for start of year. Grade 8 moves in upon completion of renovation
Grades 9-12	High School	

### C. Rented Space: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Grade	Location(s)	Notes
Preschool	Parker Road/High School	
Kindergarten	Beal/Beal West	
Grades 1-4	Beal, Paton, Coolidge, Floral, Spring (no redistricting)	Some students from Floral district remain at Beal School for grade 1
Grades 5-6	Sherwood Middle School	
Grades 7-8	Oak Middle School	Grade 7 moves into rented space for start of year then moves into Oak upon completion. Grade 8 moves into Oak upon completion of renovation.
Grades 9-12	High School	

### D. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Stay Put

Grade	Location(s)	Notes
Preschool	Parker Road/High School	
Kindergarten	Beal/Beal West	
Grades 1-5	Beal, Paton, Coolidge, Floral, Spring (no redistricting)	Some students from Floral district remain at Beal School for grade 1.
Grades 6	Sherwood Middle School	Includes Floral grade 5.
Grades 7-8	Oak Middle School	Grade 7 starts year at Sherwood Middle then moves into Oak Middle upon completion.  Grade 8 starts year at High School then moves into Oak Middle upon completion of renovation.
Grades 9-12	High School	

